

Editorial

Costly project

It's taken 18 long months, countless volunteer hours, plenty of arm-twisting and a lot of blood, sweat and tears but the Town of Halton Hills' localmotion campaign finally reached its fund-raising target of \$2 million.

The object of all this toil was to help pay for the cost of a new ice surface (the Mold-Master SportsPlex) and a new recreation centre in Georgetown South Community Park.

All who worked so hard on this project deserve a pat on the back as they made this a true community effort by getting business, politicians and residents at large to work towards desperately-needed facilities for our growing population.

"The big winner will be the mothers, uncles, brothers, sisters that actually use the facility (the recreation centre)," said localmotion campaign chair Jonathon Fischer, whose Mold-Masters firm was the first to step up to the plate with a generous donation.

However, the news regarding the yet-to-be-tendered (let alone built) recreation centre is not all rosy.

In 1999 the two projects were estimated to cost \$10 million (\$6.3 for the recreation centre alone) but in 2000 that pricetag climbed to \$12.1 million. Today it sits at \$17 million.

The town has found itself in a Catch-22 position as they can't begin construction, lest they lose out on more than \$3 million in government SuperBuild funding. However, every day they wait, construction and other costs skyrocket.

Undoubtedly taxpayers will end up paying much more than anticipated for this facility.

That may be a tough sell to a public whose patience for a new rec centre is already past breaking point.



Letters to the editor...

Kids' walk to school is not about safety

Dear editor,

I'm responding to parents concerned about the safety of their children walking a couple of miles to

the Catholic high school. They claim that this is a safety issue. They need busing. Come on people, this has nothing to do with safety. There are sidewalks. The students need exercise and they are almost adults—it's good for them.

It has everything to do with children who won't walk to school and parents having to drive them. Parents don't want to be inconvenienced by having to take them to school.

If 150 parents were so concerned about safety, where were these parents when this school was being proposed to be built right beside the highway? There are transport trucks, gravel trucks and all kinds of traffic going 100 km-h.

Where is the bus loading zone? There's no room for buses to go into the school parking area. There are all kinds of cement barriers making it very awkward for buses to navigate without hitting students or cement curbs. Buses will probably have to load and unload right on the busy highway.

Everything a student wants is on the other side of the highway. They have to cross the highway just to go home. During school hours they will want to cross to go to stores, restaurants, etc. What about all those vans picking up students on either side of the highway? It will be very difficult for motorists to see students darting every which way. A traffic light is not going to make a difference. They will cross anywhere and anyway they want to.

There are large portable signs on the other side of Hwy. 7 (Guelph St.). They alone are a distraction for motorists. Motorists are not going to see students crossing the highway in between them.

Christ the King High School should not have been built at this location and no one did anything to stop it. It's a little late to be concerned about the safety of your child walking to this school. It's more about how safe your child is at this school.

Reta Thompson,
Georgetown

Daffodil sale a success

Dear editor,

After a cold and snowy beginning to spring, the bright yellow Canadian Cancer Society daffodils were a welcome sight. The community of Acton once again supported our annual daffodil sale and helped raise more than \$5,000 for the Cancer Society.

The money raised through daffodil sales helps fund research, provide information on cancer, treatment and risk reduction, and provides support for people living with cancer, family members and friends.

Thanks to all the volunteers who visited local businesses and schools to take orders for daffodils. Thanks as well to those who packed orders and sold daffodils to the public.

I would like to extend a special thank you to the Acton Pathfinders for their help with selling daffodils. Your enthusiasm was much appreciated. We are fortunate to have the continued support of the Royal Canadian Legion who allow us to use their facility to store our flowers and pack our orders.

We are grateful to Acton IGA for giving us the opportunity to sell our daffodils at the store. *The New Tanner* and *The Independent & Free Press* promoted the daffodil sale and we appreciate your assistance.

Cathy Gerrow, Acton Branch
Daffodil Co-ordinator,
Canadian Cancer Society

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be signed and include an address and daytime telephone number. Unsigned letters will not be published. Letters should not exceed 200 words and may be edited.

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